Celebration of Life
for:

Pastor Rufus Bradford

Entrance:
July 31, 1922

Transition:
July 14, 2019

Pastor Emeritus, Jurisdictional Pioneer President Emeritus,
"Brad", "Pa", "Dad Bradford", "Granddaddy", "Fig", "Daddy"

"I Have Fought A Good Fight, I Have Finished My Course
I Have Kept The Faith" ~ **II Timothy 4:7**

Tuesday, July 23, 2019, 11:00 A.M.
Ephesian Church Of God In Christ
1709 Alcatraz Ave., Berkeley, CA.
Bishop Johnathan D. Logan, Sr. Host Pastor

Chief Officiant: The Right Reverend Bishop Johnathan D. Logan, Sr.
Jurisdictional Prelate, Greater Northern California Second Jurisdiction

The Order Of Celebration

The Celebration Expeditor ..... 2nd Admin Asst. Supt. Albert Williams

The Musical Prelude..... Mr. Kameron Mattox

The Opening ..... 2nd Admin. Asst. Supt. Albert Williams

We bless thee O' Lord as we enter into this glorious Celebration Of Life – for our dear Father is now absent from the body and present with the Lord. Amen

The Processional.....The Jurisdictional Bishop, Admin. Assistants, Executive Board, Superintendents, Pastors, and the Bradford Family

The Prayer Of Comfort..... Pastor Ron Darden

Reading of God's Holy Word

The Old Testament (Psalm 27:1-5) .....Supt. Hosea Irving

The New Testament (St. John 14:1-6) .....Supt. Louis B. Spicer, Jr.

Presentation of the Military Salute

A Medley of Songs ***"I Still Have Joy", Satan You Bum"***..Madame Ethel Gist

Warm Expressions of Comfort

Family Representation..... Mr. Johan Mattox

Personal Physician / Friend ..... Dr. Gary Marcus

Dear Friends.....Pastor Wardell House
Supt. D.M. Sanders

Selection *"Oh Heaven, Heaven Is Mine"*..... Sis. Dorris Hutcherson

Jurisdictional Tributes

Women's Department Representation..... Dr. Carolyn Logan

Auxiliary Representation .....Pastor Anthony P. Brown

Pioneer Department Representation ..... Dr. Robert Collier

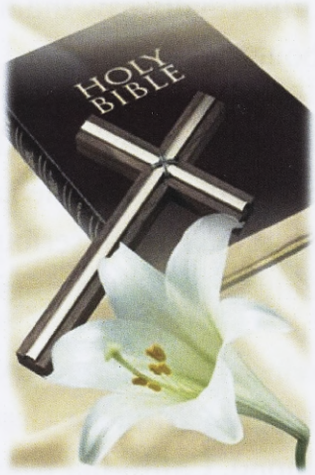
The Acknowledgments of Condolences & Resolutions ..... Sister Reneé Dayce
Supt. Louis B. Spicer, Jr.

Daddy's Life Story ..... Sis. Valeria Finley

The Introduction of Eulogist .....Supt. Al Williams
GNC2 Second Administrative Asst.

Selection *"The Holy Ghost"*..... GNC2 Ensemble

God's Holy Word Proclaimed
Bishop Johnathan D. Logan, Sr.
Jurisdictional Prelate
Greater Northern California Second Jurisdiction



Recessional

Musical Postlude

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;" ~ **Psalms 23:1-4**

Pastor Bradford's Favorite Scripture

Daddy's Life Story

Wyatt and Mabel Bradford were blessed with five (5) precious children. Rufus (July 31, 1922), Robert, Philonoise, Agnes and Elouise.

As Rufus grew up in Morton, Mississippi, he found that he had a love for fine clothes. However, his money was not enough to sustain such a life style. He definitely needed a job. Later he enlisted in the Navy in World War II, and served his time receiving an Honorable Discharge.

He then resided in St. Louis, Missouri for a time, later moving on to McNary, Arizona. There he found the love of his life – her name was Amy. Was she easily persuaded by his smooth talk and fancy clothes? Absolutely Not! He had to make a change in order to get her attention. You see, she was a true "Church Lady" and he was as he described himself "A Chief Sinner" of the town.

To make a long story short, when Rufus finally saw the light and realized that Ms. Amy didn't play his game, he became serious about seeking the Lord for himself.

Finally, he forgot about his fancy clothes and bowing at the altar on just one (1) knee to keep his pants clean. But he faced the fact that he needed the Lord for himself and Ms. Amy would be a bonus along with her four (4) children. He got serious and not only found the Lord but captured Ms. Amy's heart and wedding bells started ringing several months later.

Rufus is now Deacon Bradford. Moving forward. January 31, 1965 promotion came again and the Deacon received his Minister's License. Minister Bradford wanted a better life for his new family. They later relocated to Richmond, California where he received his Minister's License from Pastor Archie Levias. With Bishop Stewart as his pastor, promotion after promotion came to him. Minister Bradford is now Elder Bradford and appointed to the State Evangelist Board in 1967. Bishop B.R. Stewart appointed Elder Bradford as President of the Minister's Board in 1971 – 1972. He was then appointed to the position of Second Assistant Pastor to Pentecostal Temple COGIC in 1971. Because of Bishop Stewart's confidence in him, he appointed Pastor Bradford to Northern California 1st Jurisdiction Finance Department in 1973. He maintained that position until approximately 2015 under the leadership of the Late Bishop Robert Richard Carr, and served as the Pioneer Department President for 42 years.

Pastor Bradford pastored Holy Ghost Temple COGIC with Mother Bradford by his side for 37 years until his health would no longer allow. He later served for a short time as a member of Vallejo Temple COGIC where Pastor Wert Terry is the pastor, where he was much admired and

respected. On October 19, 2018, he was the recipient of the "Nonagenarian Citation" by the Church of God in Christ, Incorporated.

At the time of his transition, Pastor Bradford's membership was at Ephesians COGIC where Superintendent Louis B. Spicer, Jr. is the pastor. He was also well loved and respected for his wisdom and preaching.

Pastor Bradford's favorite phrase when exhorting the gospel was "Am I Right About It?" In his early years, he loved to hunt game (bear & deer). His hobbies included putting his puzzles together, watching or listening to westerns, his favorite western was "Valdez Is Coming". He loved going to Larry's Farm for Purple Hull Peas, Cranberry Beans and then Shelling Peas with Momma. He loved to cook the turkey and dressing for all of the holiday and family gatherings. He thought he was the best cook, even though Momma taught him everything that he knew about cooking. His favorite foods were grits and eggs with a side of toast. He would sneak in sausage and bacon which he didn't need. Pastor Bradford treasured spending time with his breakfast buddies – Admin. Asst. Supt. Lodgie James and Dr. Robert Collier. His favorite colors for his clothes were tan or navy blue.

Pastor Bradford loved the Lord, his dear wife, Mother Bradford, of 63 years who he called "Honey", their children, all the grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grands and of course his two sisters.

Well, as Pastor Bradford would say "I've moved from So. 47th Street to my brand-new home. I've got a new heart, a new walk and no more arthritis. The streets are paved with gold. Three gates in the north, three gates in the south, east and west. The trees are there that I often told others about – the leaves for the healing of the nations. God has wiped away all my tears. I am at rest. My beloved wife is at peace".

I was preceded in death by my parents Wyatt and Mabel Bradford, my siblings Robert and Agnes Bradford, and Elouise Russell, my daughter, Missionary Dorothy Jones and my beloved wife, Mother Amy Bradford.

I leave you my dear children and family to cherish our years together, John Mattox, Betty Carbin (Al), Marie N. Robinson (Joseph), and my sister Philonoise. All of my grandchildren great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members, saints and friends at large. Stay with the Lord!

A Salute To My Friend
"Tell Marie"

Yes, and it was at Pastor Odom's funeral yesterday, that I thought about my friend Rufus Bradford. "I've got to call him again," I said to myself.

Now Sunday afternoon, Missionary Shaw telephones me. "Missionary Robinson called me, said that Pastor Bradford died this morning, and he wants you to be a part of his funeral."

I guess it seems peculiar how Pastor Bradford and I became special friends. I guess, it just happened. I knew that he was my senior in age; however, at no time did age present a barrier to our friendship.

Anyhow, on several occasions my wife had inferred and insisted that I was always older than my years of my life suggested.

It is true that Pastor Bradford and I did share some common personal attributes, beliefs and desires.
1) I know how good it feels to be neatly dressed. Oh, the man dressed well! And when I complimented him about his choice of ties, Pastor Bradford promptly bought me beautiful silk black and white tie. Today, it's my favorite tie.

2) Around Pastor Bradford, my ideas of holiness never seemed outdated, but validated. Or at least I thought that I wasn't the only crazy saint loving the old ways.

3) Pastor Bradford was not bashful in expressing his love for his family. He joked about his longtime loving marriage with his wife; but much like my own daughters, Marie seemed to remain "Daddy's Girl." Sometimes, Pastor Bradford complained that Marie made such a fuss over him; however, I really believe that even the independent Rufus enjoyed much of the attention, and he was proud to have such a concerned daughter.

4) Almost immediately after the death of Bishop Carr; following one Jurisdictional meeting, Pastor Bradford telephoned me. "Pastor Sanders, he said to me, we're (GNC2) gonna stay together." But, oh when Pastor Logan was consecrated Bishop, you could feel the electricity in the conversation with Pastor Bradford as we celebrated over the telephone.

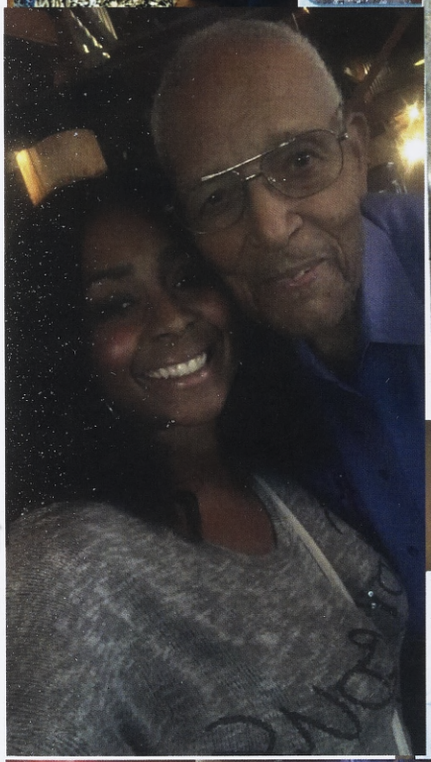
While Pastor Bradford presided over the Pioneer Department, I tried hard to be present and active in those activities. But not only because of the reminders of the Church of God in Christ rich heritage; but I just loved to be around my friend.

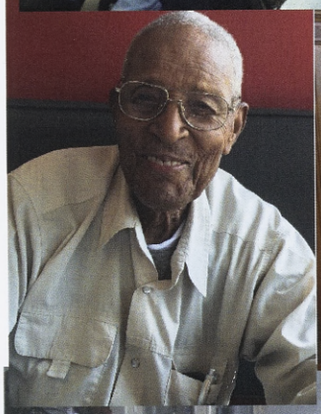
With him, one could gladly anticipate a Bradford warm smile.
----------A Bradford joke. ------
A Bradford word or gesture of encouragement -------
And always a Bradford praise for our worthy God.

My heart keeps flipping, and I keep sighing as I put these words on paper. But as I consider the few true friends with whom I have been blessed; because of my friendship with Rufus Bradford, certainly my life is richer.

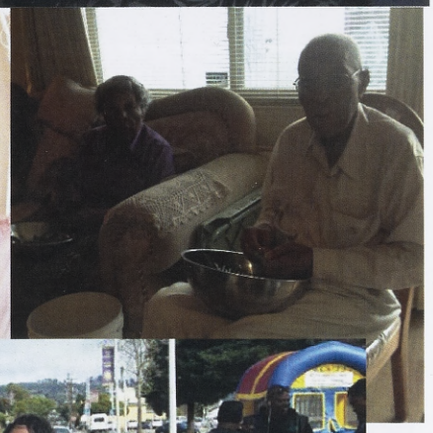
Of course, I regret that not frequently enough did I tell him that I appreciated and loved him. But then again when I last telephoned him, Pastor Bradford acknowledged my expressions of love, and he assured me that he would tell Marie.

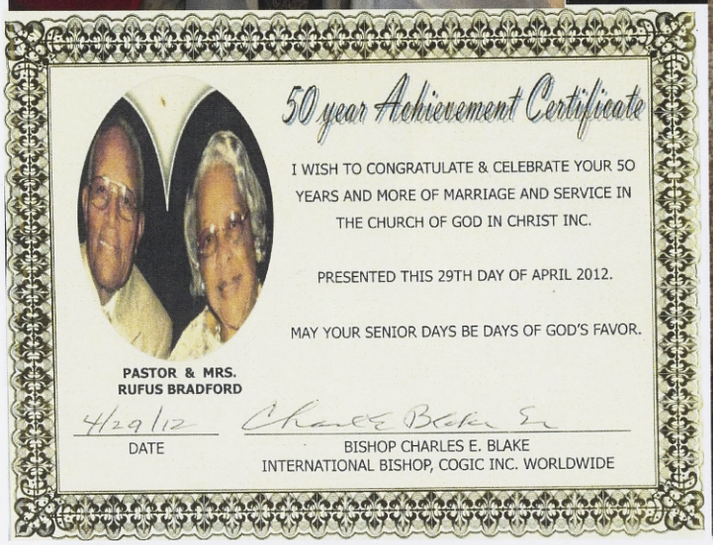
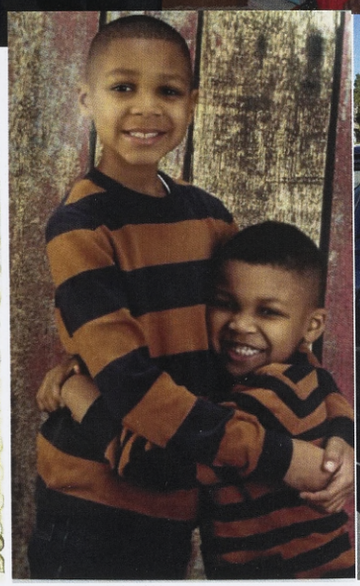
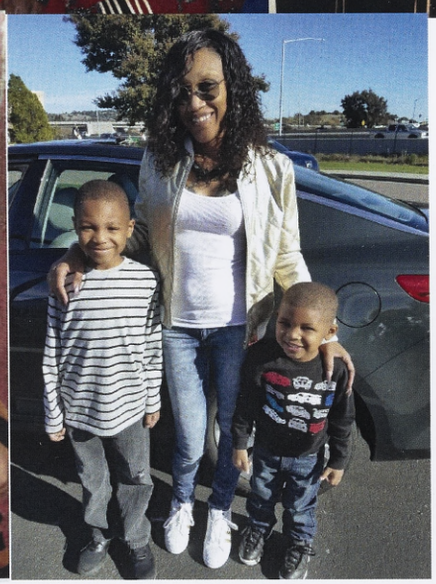
D M Sanders
Central Valley Superintendent





03/11/2007




50 year Achievement Certificate
I WISH TO CONGRATULATE & CELEBRATE YOUR 50 YEARS AND MORE OF MARRIAGE AND SERVICE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST INC.
PRESENTED THIS 29TH DAY OF APRIL 2012.
MAY YOUR SENIOR DAYS BE DAYS OF GOD'S FAVOR.
PASTOR & MRS. RUFUS BRADFORD
4/29/12
DATE
BISHOP CHARLES E. BLAKE
INTERNATIONAL BISHOP, COGIC INC. WORLDWIDE



Active Pall Bearers

Mr. Johan Mattox

Mr. Shawn O'Connor

Mr. Julian Tarkington

Mr. Andrew Dickover

Mr. Jamar Walker

Mr. George Lane

Mr. Rodney Salsberry

Honorary Pall Bearers

Mr. John Mattox

1st Admin Asst. Dr. Lodgie James

Mr. Kameron Mattox

Mr. Joseph L. Robinson

Mr. Todd Hollowell

Dr. Gary Marcus

Mr. Al Carbin

Mr. Jordan Mattox

Mr. James Butler III

Dr. Robert Collier

The Men's Department of Ephesians COGIC – Richmond, CA.

The Pastor, Pastors and Superintendents of Greater Northern California 2nd Jurisdiction.

Special Thanks To:

(The additional caregivers), Ms. Kim Robinson (granddaughter) and Mrs. Wanda Crutchfield, Dr. Gary Marcus (Cardiologist), Mr. Luis Espinosa (family friend for always coming to our aid), the Richmond Roadrunners, Supt. Spicer and Ephesians Church of Richmond.

Acknowledgement

The Family of Pastor Rufus Bradford would like to say thank you for every kind deed shown to us in our time of need. Whether you sent a text message, prayed a prayer, sent a card or delivered food to our door, we say Thank You and God bless you.

Arrangements Entrusted To

Wilson & Kratzer Funeral Services
455 – 24th Street
Richmond, CA 94804

Earthly Resting Place

Rolling Hill Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Dr.
Richmond, CA. 94806

Repast

Hilltop Park and Recreation Center
1091 Parkside Street
Richmond, CA 94806

Directions: Proceed across the street from Rolling Hills Cemetery to Park Central. Continue straight, turn (L) on Parkside Street. Turn immediately (R) into the driveway to the Park and Recreation Center.

I STAND TODAY TO REPRESENT
THREE CONSTITUENCIES WHO HELD
A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEART AND
LIFE OF OUR DECEASED GIANT OF A MAN,
THE ELDER RUFUS BRADFORD
I CONVEY CONDOLENCES AND RESPECT TO
DE ROBINSON AND THE FAMILY FROM 2 OF
HIS SPECIAL FRIENDS — OLD TIMERS
SUPT. RAYFORD STRONG OF TUCSON, ARIZONA
AND
SUPT. LUTHER MCCURTISS OF VENTURA, CALIF.
BOTH LIFE LONG FRIENDS AND BOTH INVOLVED
AS YOUNG MEN TOGETHER IN THEIR
EARLY MINISTRY — EVANGELIZING
ALL 3 DYNAMIC PREACHERS.
OVER TIME IT WAS MY PIVELESE TO
KEEP THEM IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE
FROM TIME TO TIME.

Second,

Elder Bradford had several very special eating establishments near home that he truly loved and often visited —

Mels Diner in Pinole

The House of Soul in Vallejo

Cafe Soleil in El Sobrante

and Sukies Country Kitchen in San Pablo

At Sukies, so popular was he, that there ~~were~~ Photos of He and his wife occupy a prominent place on the Photo Wall for all To See

---

This past week, in his honor and as a memorial, I paid a visit To all four, eating at Two In Memory of Eld. Bradford.

And Finally,

The Pioneer Department of
G.N.C 2 Jurisdiction

I should tell you that Bishop B.R. Stewart
Appointed him as President for Pioneers
IN 1976 and he served the
First Jurisdiction for 22 years
When GNC 2 was Established under
Bishop Robert Richard Carr,
Eld Bradford was Appointed President —
Where he served for 20 years

A Total of 42 years of
UNinterrupted Service

2 years ago, It was his desire that
I be his successor as Pioneer President,
and with his blessings and Bishop Logans
Approval, that was done.

IN our Souvenir Program this year we
Included A message to our President Emeritus —
I would like to Read that message.